

CONSERVATION OF LOGGERHEAD (*CARETTA CARETTA*) IN ISLAND OF BOA VISTA (ARCHIPELAGO OF CAPE VERDE).

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In the archipelago of Cape Verde one of the most important female nesting colonies in the entire world for loggerhead sea turtles, *Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus 1758) can be found. This population was recently disclosed, and 1998 began the conservation and the study of the most significant aspects of their reproductive biology.

These animals present a complex life-cycle, with phases that are very sensitive to environmental alterations and to anthropogenic factors, which show at present, a high mortality in all their phases of life. In the work camp for the conservation and investigation of the reproductive biology of the sea turtles, based on the Island of Boa Vista, we work on different tasks of managing and maintenance of this natural resource, ultimately with the aim to preserve the species. Between these tasks, beaches are monitored for the capture of biometric information and marking nesting females; the marking of nests and the translocation to a hatchery of those nests that are in not suitable places.

Also daily explorations are done to assess tracks and to be able to estimate the size of the population, spatial and temporary distribution of the nest building, the success of placement, and the control of the predation. On the other hand, campaigns of sensitization are completed ,and nocturnal maintenance of the coasts to avoid the apprehension of the females.